CONQUEST OF MEXICO.

Dramatic Episodes of the Retreat of Cortez.

By R. M. BIRD.

SYNOPSIS.

The scene is laid in the Aztec capital.
Cortez's army has met with defeat, its ranks have been thinned by famine and battle, and already many valiant knights have met death in the streets or a more horrible fate of sacrifice in the temple. Following other misfortunes and increasing the danger of the invaders was the death of Montezuma of wounds inflicted by his own subjects. Cortez begins a night march from the capital, hoping thus to avoid further conflict with the Mexicans. Don Amador de Leste, a Spanish knight, is the hero, and with him is a stripling page, Jacinto, the child of a renegade Moor in the service of the Mexican nobles. This retreat is known in history as "The Sorrowful Night."

"THE SORROWFUL NIGHT."

"THE SORROWFUL NIGHT."

The situation of the Spaniards at that moment, though sufficiently frightful to every one, was yet known in all its horrors only to the leaders of the van. As hope is every independent of judgment, ever unreasonable for hattle. Give this paid to the can where thou art, De Leste; for thou art too where thou art, De Leste; for thou art too where thou art, De Leste; for thou art too where thou art, De Leste; for thou art too where thou art, De Leste; for thou art too where thou art, De Leste; for thou art too where thou art, De Leste; for thou art too states of the deaders of the slaughter.

"Quick, and again!" cried Don Hernando, eagerly. "Shoot fast, and shoot well; and know that I will shortly be back with ye.—Ho. Sandoval! why dost thou loiter? plunge into the ditch, and swim. Rest where thou art, De Leste; for thou art too ever independent of judgment, ever unreasonable and unreflective, the absence of the bridge at the first sluice was not enough to persuade the fugitives that the passage of the second might be equally interrupted.

But at the moment when the signal fire was a way for him. A cavalier, bearing a burden

mile in length; but, as far as it stretched, and further than the eye could penetrate beyond either extremity, a triple row of cabeyond either extremity, a triple row of canoes on each side of the causeway was seen closing uponit with the speed and fury of breakers, dashing against a stranded ship.

"Now, cannoniers!" cried Don Hernando, elevating his voice above the tumult, when the rushing masses were within but a few paces of the causeway; "now to your linstocks, and touch in the name of God!"

The damp gunpowder sparkled and hissed on the vents, but did not fail the Christians in their need. The roar of the volley was like the peal of an earthquake; and right and left, as 18 horizontal columns of fire darted from the engines, the lake boiled

paces of the causeway; "now to your linstocks, and touch in the name of God!"

The damp gunpowder sparkled and hissed on the vents, but did not fail the Christians in their need. The roar of the volley was like the peal of an earthquake; and right and left, as 18 horizontal columns of fire darted from the engines, the lake boiled up with a new fury, fragments of canoes and the bodies of men were seen flung up into the air, and yells of agony which chilled the blood bore witness to the dreadfulness of the slaughter.

dom of the measure, and the probability of escape.

Two circumstances, however, greatly diminished the exultation which the cavalier would have otherwise felt at the success of his strategem. Though the Tiascalans in front ever responded to the shouts of his gunners, and though each discharge ever, when a volley was proceded by the loud "Vim!" meant to encourage the allies, the answer seemed to come from the same distance, and the mass of feathered.

weak for battle. Give thine aid to the can-



DON AMADOR FLUNG HIMSELF UPON THE BEAM AND STRUCK THE FIRST MAN DEAD.

kindled on the temple, Sandoval had allowed by reached this ditch, and perceived that its bridge was also demolished, and, ast its seemed, very recently too, for there yet cases also demolished, white perceived as it seemed, very recently too, for the page timber lying across the change of the province.

Sandoval had allowed by other readered him regardless of the boundacies of the province.

Sandoval had allowed imperceived this ditch, and perceived the boundacies of the province.

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Sandoval had allowed imperceived this ditch, and perceived this ditch, and perceived the boundacies of the province.

Sandoval had allowed imperceived this ditch, and perceived this ditch, and

chasm,—left, as he feared, rather as some decoy and trap, than, as was more probable, deserted suddenly by workmen, scared from their labors by the approach of the Spaniards.

The three ditches divided the dike into four portions of as many furlongs in extent. On the second of these portions was concentrated the whole retreating army, its front resting upon a sluice of great depth was soon discovered to be sound, but not by the horse and artillery, without the portable bridge, which yet rested over the first breach. This second obstacle being overcome, it was apparent that a third would still remain to be surmounted, and the passage of both was to be effected in the presence and in the midst of a great enemy.

As we have said, the beacon-light shooting up from the pyramid, and consinuing to burn with intensity, brought light where decay and trap, than, as was more probable or hand the passage of both was to be effected in the presence and in the midst of a great enemy.

As we have said, the beacon-light shooting up from the pyramid, and consinuing to burn with intensity, brought light where decay and trap, than, as was more probable which allows of lower the hords of Christians while still enduring the arrows that came like a driving rain from the lake.

Meanwhile, it was evident, though the cannon where should where the should where the should be a diving rain from the lake.

Meanwhile, it was evident, though the cannon of gaain with extraordinary quickness, served to keep the part of the causeway where they stood free from assailants, that they had effected a landing, perhaps both in front and rear, e-criainly on the latter,—where they stood free from assailants, that they had effected a landing, perhaps both in front and rear, e-criainly on the latter,—where they stood the passage of the said and in free from the arrow while at the whole rear the same tike a driving rain from the lake.

Meanwhile, it was evident, though the cannon of gaain with extraordinary quickness, served to keep the proper the proper to

he darted among the cannoniers, and burn with intensity, brought light where all before was darkness, and revealed such all before was darkness, and revealed such innumerable fleets of canoes, hovering on both flanks, as the novice had not seen even on that day when he first strode upon a dike of Mexico. But the spirit that then slumbered was now awake; and as the rowers responded with their wild cries to glassy maces, and rushing with the rolls. spray of fire; and thus they rushed madly impenetrable.

against the causeway.

The novice cast his eye upon the General.

The ruddy glare of the beacon could not

he continued, as if giving counsel and com-mand to all: "Be bold and fearless, and strike for the honour of God, brave Chris-tians! Soho! De Leon, valiant brother! and thou, Alvarado, matchless cavalier! raise me the bridge, and be quick; for here

The voices of other officers were heard faintly mingled with the din, but not long; every moment the shouts of the Mexicans, continued without intermission, became louder, and their canoes were plunging

nearer to the causeway.

A pang rent the bosom of Don Amador:
"I must get me to my companions," he cried, to Jacinto, "and what can I do for rned, to Jacinto, "and what can I do for thee this night, young page that I love?" "I will follow thee," said the page, tremu-lously; "I will die with my lord." "Would that I had thee but upon the back of Fogosol for methinks that even De Moria should not strike more truly for Minnapotzin than would I this night for thee."

Where goest thou, De Leste." cried Cortez, as the novice pushed by. "Pause thou art best among the cannoniers."

infidels on the water rushed to the attack

rowers responded with their wild cries to glassy maces, and rushing with the yells the roar of the sacred trumpet, they struck the water furiously with their paddles until the whole lake seemed to boil up with a hideous mass of slaughter, impassable and

His heart sank within him. "I have prejudiced thy life, as well as my own, this night," he said. "Would that I had never left the back of Fogoso!"

The novice cast his eye again of the beacon could not change the deadly pallor that covered his checks, but, nevertheless, with this ghastly countenance turned to the foe he cried out, cherrily, or at least firmly, to those immediately in advance,—
"Who ho, cannoniers! your quoins and handspikes, your horns and matches! and handspikes, your horns and matches! and handspikes, the lake-rats!"

The novice cast his eye again and highly in all the back of Fogoso!"

Before he had yet time to resolve whether to return to the cannoniers, or to make one more effort to pierce the bloody mass, he was descried by the crew of a piragua, which, that moment, was urged upon the his dike with such violence that it was split in twain by the shock. The eager warriors have been more to pass the beam—"

"For the sake of the cross thou adorest, "For the sake of the cross thou adorest." The neophyte retreated; but neither the rapidity of his steps, nor the keenness of his blows, would, perhaps, have availed against their numbers, enfeebled as he was, and trammelled by the grasp of the af-frighted Jacinto, had not a party of Span-ish footmen flying from the grasp of sh footmen, flying from the rear, came that moment to his aid. These, though they forced the barbarians to give way, were in their turn driven back upon the cannon:

and Don Amador was fain to follow them. The audacity of the foe seemed to in-rease rather than diminish; and, twice or thrice, efforts were made by certain valiant madmen among them to spring to land immediately in the mouths of the cannon. These were instantly speared by the many desperate Spaniards, who, flying from their posts in the rear, which were now known to be in extremity, took refuge among the artillery, as the only place of safety, and there fought with better resolu-

The weight of the horses and artillery had sunk it deep into the chasm, and no human strength could stir it from its foundation.

These words and sights were all the ocurrences of a moment. There was neither time for observation nor lamentation. The infidels on the water righed to the attack.

The many bitter reflections that harrow sought out the secretary. But this group, with the same fury which had so often driver the many bitter reflections that harrow sought out the secretary. But this group, we do his own bosom he spoke not, and sharply he reprimanded others, who were yielding to despair. Whatever might be the difficulty of advancing, he felt that such a measure of the great city was gathered together for this undertaking, for those who had caught a little of their language sould distinguish the different quarters of the island encouraging each other with cries of "Ho. Tlatelolco! shall Majotla strike first at the foe?—Alzacualco! on; for Tecpan is swift and mirthful.—On, ho! for Mexitli is speaking; on, for our gods are on the temple, and they hunger for the Teucille." The line of the army was full half a first the disconting the call half a first the disconting the call half a first the farmance of the temple, and they hunger for the Teucille. The line of the army was full half a first the disconting that harrow should not less by their cries of the south that harrow should not less by their cries of the south that harrow before he had yet reached it, started away and fled, with loud cries, towards the city, or to where the tunult was greatest; and he knew by their should or to where the tunult was greatest; and he knew by their should or to where the tunult was greatest; and he knew by their should or to where the tunult was greatest; and he knew by their should or to where the tunult was greatest; and the calmon flat t The many bitter reflections that harrow-

by too determined a front of resistance, and, loading quickly, take advantage of the confusion following each discharge, so as to gain as much ground as possible, while still manfully fighting. He hoped, thus, besides succoring the Tlascalans in front, and giving room for the arrangement. sage to the footmen, but where his most sanguine wishes could point out no other hope than to stand by the cannon till relieved, or abandon them and fly, as seemed to him all had done who had already crossed the breach.

the answer seemed to come from the same distance, and the mass of feathered war-riors, lit up by the discharge, disclosed the bodies of none but frowning Mexicans. The other circumstance was still more ap-The other circumstance was still more appalling; the space behind, left vacant by his advance, was occupied no longer by foot or horse, by treasure-bearer or prisoner, by Spanish musketeer or Tlascalan spearman. A few dusky groups could be seen running to and fro, behind; but they seemed rather to rush backwards than to follow after.

The sight of the ditch and thebeam clear rest. of enemies, fired the cannoniers with new hopes; and in the frenzy of their joy, they would instantly have dropped their fuses and handspikes, and taken to flight, had it not been that Don Amador flung himself had been the cannoniers with new "God rest thee, Lorenzo!" cried the novice, laying down the corse of Engracia. "Thy life and thy hopes, thy ambition and thy not been that Don Amador flung himself had it not lament thee!" upon the beam, and striking the first man dead, commanded them still to stand to

se Caitiffs are ye all," he cried, "who, "Base Cattiffs are ye all," he cried, "who, thus having the victory and the lives of half the army in your hands, should so desert your posts, in the midst of triumph! Wheel round half your pieces, and sweep the causey sides behind;—for I hear the coming of friends. Would ye give up your pieces to infidels? They are your safety!"

The reproof of the cavalier, the sight of their dead comrade, and the sword which had punished him, still commanding the narrow pathway, the voices of Christians behind, but, more than all, the manifest truth of the declaration, that their safety depended on their remaining by the artillery, turned the gunners at once from their purpose; and their resolution received a new confirmation, when a Christian voice was heard shouting in the front, as if of some cavalier, heading a hand of returning friends, and when, the next moment, a Spanish soldier was seen to run towards them, leap on the beam, and then spring from it to the causeway.

"Santiago, and shoot on!" cried the overjoyed gunners; "for Cottez is coming!"

"What, ho, knave Lazaro!" eried the "Thy duty strength of the fugitive had suddenly given; out, or whether, as seemed more probable, a flight of the fugitive had suddenly given; out, or whether, as seemed more probable, a flight of the fugitive had suddenly given; out, or whether, as seemed more probable, a flight of the fugitive had suddenly given; out, or whether, as seemed more probable, a flight of the fugitive had suddenly given; out, or whether, as seemed more probable, a flight of the fugitive had suddenly given; out, or whether, as seemed more probable, a flight of the fugitive had suddenly given; out, or whether, as seemed more probable, a flight of the fugitive had suddenly given; out, or whether, as seemed more probable, a flight of the fugitive had suddenly given; out, or whether, as seemed more probable, a flight of the fugitive had suddenly given; out, or whether, as seemed more probable, a flight of the fugitive had suddenly given; out, or whether, as seemed mor thus having the victory and the lives of

the maiden thou lovest!" cried the terrified boy, clinging to the cavalier, leave me not, oh, leave me not, in this horror, to die alone! The Mexicans will kill me, for I have now no gown of a priestess to protect me——" Notwithstanding the boiling excitement

of the novice, these last words filled his brain with strange thoughts, but still so confused that they were more like the mome tary phantasms of delirium, than the proper suggestions of reason. But whateve they were, they were instantly driven out of his mind, by another cry from Fabueno, seemingly hard by, but so feeble and wailing, that a less acute ear might have sup-posed it came from a considerable distance. He shook the boy off, flung him into the arms of Lazaro, crying, "Answer his safe-ty with thy life!—with thy life!" and im-mediately darted through the cannoniers,

and retraced his steps on the causeway.

By this time the fire on the pyramid had attained its greatest brilliancy, and the wind having died entirely away, it projected its lofty spire to heaven, and burned with a tranquillity which seemed to leave it motionless; while its reflection on that part of the lake which shared not in the agriculture. Where goest thon, De Lesse. Card Cortez, as the novice pushed by. "Pause—thou art best among the cannoniers."

A dreadful yell, at that moment, drowned the General's voice: but one still more dreadful was heard, when, as the pagans drew breath to repeat the cry, the Christians in front heard the rear-guard exclaiming, with loud and hitter shrieks, "The bridge!—it is fast and immovable!"—the bridge!—it is fast and immovable!"—they were thus rushing, began to leave there is the lake which shared not in the agitations of the conflict, produced a spectacle of peace in singular contrast with the horses and artillery had.

In the meanwhile, the efforts of the enemy still remaining unabated, the prisoners and many of the rear-guard pressing wild-by forward, and Don Hernando and most of the conflict, produced a spectacle of peace of the officers having fled to the front, from which they had not returned, the gunners were themselves secred with a panic; and, without regarding the death on which they were thus rushing, began to leave their pieces and fly. The representations of the dike; and there, whatever deed made objects visible even as far as the sec-ond ditch, did not illuminate the further part of the dike; and there, whatever deed of death might be presented, was hidden from the eyes of all but the actors them-

Raising his voice aloud, and running to-Raising his voice aloud, and running towards the nearest group. Don Amador sought out the secretary. But this group, before he had yet reached it, started away and fled, with loud cries, towards the city, or to where the tumult was greatest; and he knew by their shouts of "Tlatelolco! ho, Tlatelolco!" that they were Mexicans. On the spot they had thus deserted, the novice stumbled over the body of a man, his throat out from ear to ear, his cotton armor torn to

front, and giving room for the rear-guard to follow, to reach the second ditch, where, as he had heard, the beam still gave pas-Restores Weakened Mankind to Strength and Vigor.

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ly mailed without evidence as to where it came from.

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hearing many Christian voices, ringing

er, by Spanish muskever or Thasealan spearman. A few dusky groups could be seen running to and fro, behind; but they seemed rather 10 rush backwards than to follow after 10 rush backwards that the follow after 10

He started up, as the causeway suddenly shook with the tramp of hoofs, and a cava-lier, without speer or heim, dashed madly by. Almost at the moment of passing, whether it was that the sidength of the fugi-

his heart.

"I come!" shouted the cavalier. redoubling his exertions, but not his speed, for that was at the highest "Oh, heaven, Amador! Amador!---".
In his distraction, the neophyte con-

founded two voices into one; and while he replied to one, his thoughts flew to another. "I come! Answer me—where art thou? I am here:—where art thou!"
As he uttered these wor As he uttered these words, he sprang through the artillery, which was without servers,—among bodies which were lifeless,—and stood alone,—for there was no living creature there but himself,—on the

borders of the sluice, the beam over which was broken off in the middle, and the further portion, only, left standing in its place. He cast his amazed and affrighted eye from the water, heaving as before with the people!"

The cavalier turned of Lazaro: he was bleeding and he cast a look of despair on his master.

Struggles of dying men, to the corpse on whose bosom he was standing.—In the grinning countenance, covered with blood, and horribly mutilated by a blow which

dead, and looking on it with a stare of hor-ror, belield the holy and never to be forgot-ten cross of rubies.

With that sight the scales fell from his

eyes, and a million of wild thoughts beset his brain. The magical knowledge of the page, coupled with his childish and effemi-nate youth,—his garments, so fitted to dis-guise,—his scrupulous modesty,—his tears, his terrors, his affection, and his power over the mind of the cavaling—the rark of the the mind of the cavalier,—the garb of the priestess, so lately acknowledged,—the vision in the house of the Wali, Abdalla,—the cross of jewels, Joubtless snatched from the neck of Jacin o, when barbarians were tearing him from the faithful Lazaro,—all these came to the brain of the cavalier with the blaze and shock of a cannon, suddenly discharged at his cars. He looked again to the corses about him—they were those of the gunners; to the ditch—it writhed no more; and then, uttering the name of Leila, he sunk, in a stupor, to the earth. (To be continued.)

THE FLIGHT OF THE DRAGON FLIES. irent Numbers Reported in Connecticut Coming from the

A report from New Haven, Conn., under date of June 10, says: "This part of Connecticut has been visited within the last few days by great numbers of dragon flies, more commonly known as double-eyed spindles, from the remarkable size and protuberance of the eyes. These insects are death to mosquitoes and their advent was hailed by shore residents with delight. The flies were first observed in this State last Monday, when a considerable hely of them now with curses, now with prayers, and Monday, when a considerable body of them now with shouts of triumph, he called out appeared hear New London and settled

Connecticut fame. It is a large insect, fully two and a half inches long and with wings three inches long, and it has an enormous head and bulging eyes. The members of the band that dropped into this neighborhood on Wednesday were plainly tired out, and bumped into everything in their way. Many of them were picked up exhausted by pedestrians in the fields and roads. They are supposed to be the natural foes of mosquitoes and to thrive in the swamps where the mosquitoes are most plentiful and where they breed. One of the flies, it is said, can kill twenty of the smaller flies and mosquitoes at one swoop through the air, and has been known to clean out an infested territory in an evening, according to up-country farmers. They were popular visitors try farmers. They were popular visitors at shore resorts, and the fact that the mil-lions in the cloud did not stay in this vicinily for a few days is much lamented.

"Like diamonds raindrops glisten." Drops of Hood's Sarsaparilla are jewels for the blood. Canada's Great Forests.

Canada has a forest area estimated at 1,250,000 square miles, or 800,000,000 acres, the largest forest area, so far as the woods of commerce are concerned, of any country in the world. The forest production is \$85,000,000 annually. Its exporta-tion of forest produce, exclusive of manufactures of wood and wood pulp, is about \$30,000,000 annually. For 1897 it was \$31,250,000, but for 1898 it fell to \$27,000,-531,250,000, but for 1898 it fell to \$2,000,000, principally because of the decrease of the importation of planks, boards, etc., by the United States. During the four years, 1894 to 1897, inclusive, an exportation of logs to the United States (principally of white pine) to the amount of \$2,000,000 at year was made. But for 1898 the amount. vear was made. But for 1898 the amount was considerably lessened, owing to recent legislation on the part of the Province of Ontario, to the effect that logs felled in the province must be cut up into lumber within the boundaries of the province.

Canada occupies a favored position with

Canada occupies a favored position with

principal seat of the white pine industry of the Dominion, but white pine is also largely found in Quebec and in the maritime provinces. White pine, indeed, constitutes the inces. White pine, indeed, constitutes the principal item of the lumber export of Canada. Another valuable forest resource that Canada possesses in great abundance is spruce, which is used for the making of wood pulp for paper stock.

North of the "Height of Land" along the
Hudson Bay slope, extends what is perhaps the largest forest of "pulp" spruce to
be found in the world. The value of the
spruce blocks now exported from Canada
amounts to about \$1,000,000 annually.

The other timber resources of Canada The other timber resources of Canada resemble those of the Northern States, including on the Pacific Coast the Douglas fir.

Coban Women in Mourning. Harper's Weekly.

tian man and true.—Hark! hearest thou not? 'T is the shout of De Leon! Bravely, bold hearts! the rear-guard is nigh.—Hahl halon halon! Don Pedro!"

"Tis the voice of the secretary!" cried Lazaro; "and God help me, but he cries for succor!"

"Ho, senor! cenor Don Amador! for the love of Christ!"—the wild shout of Fabueno, for the neophyte could no longer doubt it was he, was suddenly interrupted; the

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purchase in person.

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